

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/829,764

Examiner

Raymond S Dean

Applicant(s)

WYCHERLEY ET AL.

Art Unit

2684

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to August 31, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 4 - 6, 9 - 11, and 14 - 15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 0302.0104.0204
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Steven Shaw (Reg. No. 39,368) on December 21, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows: **In Claim 15, line 10 the phrase --stored in a memory thereof-- has been inserted between the phrase "readable data" and the comma.**

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding Claim 1, Andrews teaches a removable housing cover adapted to be detachably connectable to a portable radio communication device with a plurality of operating characteristics, the removable housing cover comprising: an identity means for identification of the removable cover (Figure 2, Column 3 lines 24 – 40, program selector is the identity means); an attaching/detaching means for removably attaching and detaching the cover to the portable radio communication device (Figure 2, Column 3 lines 24 – 40, since the front cover is interchangeable there will be a

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attaching/detaching means) and the portable radio communication device comprising: a sensor for sensing the identity means of the removable cover (Figure 2, Column 3 lines 32 – 37, the detection circuit is the sensor); and a processor for controlling the operating characteristics of the device (Column 3 lines 35 – 37), the arrangement being such that in use the removable housing cover can be mounted on and dismounted from the portable radio communication device by using the attachment and detachment means of the removable cover (Figure 2, Column 3 lines 24 – 40) and in the condition when the removable cover is mounted on the portable radio communication device the sensor senses the presence of the identity means, reads readable data from the identity means and outputs data based on the readable data to the processor (Column 3 lines 32 – 67, Column 4 lines 1 – 12, each front cover will have a different jumper pin configuration, said jumper pin configuration is information or data that the detector circuit reads via the contacts), wherein the processor is responsive to readable data so as to change selected ones of the operating characteristics of the portable radio communication device (Column 3 lines 35 – 40).

Andrews does not teach a user-exchangeable housing cover thus allowing said user to customize said radio communication device.

Slipy teaches a user-exchangeable housing cover thus allowing said user to customize said radio communication device (Figure 2, Column 4 lines 49 – 58).

Andrews and Slipy both teach a mobile phone with a removable front cover thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the user-exchangeable housing cover taught in Slipy in the mobile

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phone of Andrews for the purpose of creating a unique appearance that satisfies a user's personal tastes and preferences as taught by Slipy.

The prior art of record, however, fails to specifically teach or show a user-exchangeable housing cover comprising an identity means that includes readable data stored in a memory thereof. Claims 4, 5, 10, and 14 depend on Claim 1, Claim 6 depends on Claim 5, and Claim 9 depends on Claims 1 or 4 therefore examiner gives same reason as set forth above.

Regarding Claim 11, Andrews teaches a removable housing cover for a portable radio communication device with a sensor, the housing cover comprising: an attaching means for removably attaching the cover to the portable radio communication device (Figure 2, Column 3 lines 24 – 40, since the front cover is interchangeable there will be a attaching/detaching means); and an identity means, the removable housing cover being so configured that when the housing cover is mounted on the portable radio communication device, the identity means is coupled with the sensor of the portable radio communication device (Figure 2, Column 3 lines 24 – 67, Column 4 lines 1 – 22, the program selector is the identity means, the detection circuit is the sensor) and the sensor reads the readable data from the identity means (Column 3 lines 32 – 67, Column 4 lines 1 – 12, each front cover will have a different jumper pin configuration, said jumper pin configuration is information or data that the detector circuit reads via the contacts), wherein the internal functionality of the portable radio communication device is dependent on the identity means (Column 3 lines 32 – 40).

Andrews does not teach a user-exchangeable housing cover allowing said user to customize the portable radio communication device.

Slipy teaches a user-exchangeable housing cover allowing said user to customize the portable radio communication device (Figure 2, Column 4 lines 49 – 58).

Andrews and Slipy both teach a mobile phone with a removable front cover thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the user-exchangeable housing cover taught in Slipy in the mobile phone of Andrews for the purpose of creating a unique appearance that satisfies a user's personal tastes and preferences as taught by Slipy.

The prior art of record, however, fails to specifically teach or show a user-exchangeable housing cover comprising an identity means that comprises readable data stored in a memory thereof.

Regarding Claim 15, Andrews teaches a portable radio communication device having a removable housing cover, the portable radio communication device comprising: a sensor for reading data from the removable housing cover (Figure 2, Column 3 lines 24 – 67, Column 4 lines 1 – 12, the detection circuit is the sensor, each front cover will have a different jumper pin configuration, said jumper pin configuration is information or data that the detector circuit reads via the contacts); and a processor for controlling the operating characteristics of the device, and the removable housing cover comprising an identity means (Figure 2, Column 3 lines 24 – 40, the program selector is the identity means) and attachment/detachment means, wherein the removable housing cover being configured to be mounted on and removably attached to the portable radio

communication device using the attachment and detachment means (Figure 2, Column 3 lines 24 – 40, since the front cover is interchangeable there will be attaching/detaching means), in which arrangement the sensor of the portable radio communication device is operable to read the readable data of the identity means of the removable housing cover (Column 3 lines 32 – 67, Column 4 lines 1 – 12, each front cover will have a different jumper pin configuration, said jumper pin configuration is information or data that the detector circuit reads via the contacts) and provide an input to the processor based on the readable data of the identity means, such that the processor is controlled to alter one or more of the operating characteristics in accordance with the readable data of the identity means (Column 3 lines 24 – 67, Column 4 lines 1 – 22).

Andrews does not teach a user-exchangeable housing cover.

Slipy teaches a user-exchangeable housing cover (Figure 2, Column 4 lines 49 – 58).

Andrews and Slipy both teach a mobile phone with a removable front cover thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the user-exchangeable housing cover taught in Slipy in the mobile phone of Andrews for the purpose of creating a unique appearance that satisfies a user's personal tastes and preferences as taught by Slipy.

The prior art of record, however, fails to specifically teach or show a user-exchangeable housing cover comprising an identity means that includes readable data stored in a memory thereof.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raymond S Dean whose telephone number is 703-305-8998. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nay A Maung can be reached on 703-308-7745. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


NAY MAUNG

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER


Raymond S. Dean
December 21, 2004